In the Specification

Amend the specification as follows:

Amend the paragraph beginning at page 6, line 7 as follows:

More preferably, the second grid pattern period pis-p is defined by the expression:

Amend the paragraph beginning at page 21, line 9 as follows:

A general flowchart 100—of the overlay error extraction method that we have examined in the example above, is shown in Fig. 14. In the first step 102, the target image is scanned in the x- and y-directions to produce a digitized target image I (x, y) with a pixel size much smaller than the magnified sub-grid period M x p. The (x, y) scanned intensities are than integrated 104 into intensities I_n (x) and I_m (y). The integrated intensities are then separated 106 into single frame intensities I_{nm} (x) and I_{nm} (y). The single frame intensities are then aligned 108 using reference signals I_R (x) and I_R (y) common to each target frame. The I_F (x) and I_F (y) intensities are then fit 110 to sinusoids in each frame to determine the parameters A, B, d and s, where parameter d is the ratio of pixel size c to sub-grid period p and parameter s measures the center of the sinusoidal patterns.